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13.37 hrs.

RE: Alleged misutilisation of funds by the Government for issuing advertisements in the media.

Title : Regarding alleged misutilisation of funds by the Government for issuing advertisements in the media.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the House, through you, that for the last one week all the newspapers in Tamil Nadu are giving advertisements, in the name of the Government, in favour of the BJP election campaign.

The Cabinet has passed a resolution about the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and sent it to the hon. President. After that, the Government has no right to introduce new schemes or inaugurate any new projects. In the name of new schemes and projects, the Government is giving advertisements of crores and crores of rupees. This is purely misuse of powers. It is unconstitutional and unethical. In the name of Government, they are giving election advertisements in favour of BJP. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, the original partners of the NDA are not there. This is only a part of the NDA. This is not a Government of the real partners of the NDA.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR):

The Government is there.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Yes, the Government is there but without the real partners of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I want to bring it to the notice of the House that the Election Commission has not announced the dates for elections. The Cabinet did not announce the dissolution of the House. But prior to that, the 'super Prime Ministers', one Shri Pramod Mahajan and another Shri Venkaiah Naidu, made the announcement about the dissolution. I do not know in what capacity they have announced the dissolution.

Another announcement has been made about the dates and venues for the elections by the 'super Election Commissioners', one Shri Pramod Mahajan and another Shri Venkaiah Naidu. After these announcements, has this Government any propriety for spending the public money? ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है। प्लानिंग कमीशन के पैसे को पार्टी के प्रचार के लिए खर्च किया जा रहा है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Here is a full-page advertisement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE) : They have put full-page advertisement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not display it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, it is unconstitutional.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, in the history of Indian democracy, the Planning Commission has been brought on the posters for campaigning. The Government can do it. I do not mind that. But the Government posters include Planning Commission and a photograph of its Deputy Chairman. The Government is shamelessly using Planning Commission for its political purposes. It is shameful in Indian democracy.

I feel that the Minister owes a responsibility to the Parliament to clarify the position. He should condemn it. How has the Planning Commission been brought into the picture for giving advertisements? Is it proper? Has it ever happened in the past?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, there is a full-page advertisement by the Planning Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is shameful.

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है, प्लानिंग कमीशन के पैसे को पार्टी के प्रचार के लिए, बी.जे.पी. के प्रचार के लिए खर्च किया जा रहा है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Sir, here is a full-page advertisement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not display it.

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल : एक-एक अखबार में दो-दो पेज के इश्तहार दिये जा रहे हैं। â€ (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will not display it. But I seek your indulgence to lay it on the Table of the House for examining its contents. How has the Planning Commission been brought into the picture for political publicity about the performance of the NDA Government? Is the Planning Commission a part of the publicity campaign? How can it be done?

SHRI A. RAJA (PERAMBALUR): Sir, the Government has every right to highlight whatever its achievements are. But the Planning Commission is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. It is having some advisory role for planning in future. For the first time, the country has seen that the Planning Commission is playing a role in publicity about the Government expenditure and other things.

Sir, I am neither for the BJP, nor for the Congress Party and nor for the DMK. But I would like to seek guidance from the Chair. Should this type of expenditure be incurred on the part of the Planning Commission? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, thousands of crores of rupees are being spent.

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अरबों रुपया सरकार का भारतीय जनता पार्टी के प्रचार के लिए खर्च किया जा रहा है। यह कहाँ का तरीका है, यह सरकार बताये। प्लानिंग कमीशन के डिप्टी चेयरमैन को भी इसमें दिखा रहे हैं, यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है।â€ (व्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, as the Members are very agitated on this issue I thought I should respond to it, though it does not strictly fall within the area of my responsibility.

The first point which I would like to make is that in all the achievements of this Government, our friends from the DMK deserve the fullest credit because they have been partners until very recently and all the credit shared by us is fully with them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : At the end they have given them a certificate also...*(Interruptions)*

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। â€ (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You wanted the Government to respond. ऐसे कैसे होगा?

...*(व्यवधान)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, that is as far as the achievements are concerned.

As far as the issue of the Planning Commission issuing advertisements is concerned, I am not aware of any bar or any ban on the Planning Commission from issuing advertisements on its achievements and the achievements of the Government. I do not know why the Members should feel so agitated if the Planning Commission has issued any statement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How can they issue such advertisements?â€ *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Why not? Is there a ban? Let them show me a ban on the advertisements to be issued by the Planning Commission. This is absolutely incorrect. They have no issue, that is why they are raising absolutely irrelevant issues...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this shows his hollowness. I contest the hon. Minister. The Planning Commission is an advisory bodyâ€ *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Government has given its view that any part of the development can be advertised. I do not think there is further room for any debate on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

श्री राम प्रसाद सिंह (आरा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज के पंजाब केसरी में छपा है कि बी.जे.पी. अपने सभी एलायंस दलों को दबाव में रखे हुई है। â€ (व्यवधान) इस चुनाव में उसने अपने सहयोगी दलों को विश्वास में नहीं लिया। â€ (व्यवधान) श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज, जो एनडीए के संयोजक हैं, उनको भी अंधेरे में रखा गया। â€ (व्यवधान) चौधरी चोटाला जी को भी अंधेरे में रखा गया। â€ (व्यवधान)

श्री राम प्रसाद सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आडवाणी जी ने कहा है कि हमारी स्थिति 1977 जैसी है। â€ (व्यवधान) 1977में सत्ताधारी दल उलट गया था और फि

वपक्ष आया था यानी आडवाणी जी खुद कबूल करते हैं कि सत्ताधारी दल उलटेगा और विपक्ष सत्ता में आयेगा। â€(व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप बैठिये।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो परम्पराएं हैं, उनकी धज्जियां उड़ाई जा रही हैं। â€(व्यवधान) पैसा फूँका जा रहा है। â€(व्यवधान)

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, योजना आयोग ऐसे कैसे कह सकता है ? â€(व्यवधान) सरकारी धन का प्रयोग पार्टी के प्रचार के लिए किया जा रहा है। â€(व्यवधान)

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : प्लानिंग कमीशन के पास अपने लिए पैसा नहीं है। क्या प्लानिंग कमीशन एनडीए के लिए प्रचार करेगी ? â€(व्यवधान) योजना भवन के बाहर बीजेपी का दफ्तर लिख दिया जाये। â€(व्यवधान)

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा : क्या इससे पहले की सरकारों ने ऐसा नहीं किया ? â€(व्यवधान) क्या ऐसा कभी नहीं किया ? कैसे नहीं किया ? â€(व्यवधान) आज उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार कर रही है, बिहार की सरकार कर रही है। â€(व्यवधान)

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल : किसी सरकार ने ऐसा नहीं किया। â€(व्यवधान) इन्होंने परम्पराओं की धज्जियां उड़ा दी हैं। â€(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are not in a position to know whether it is about development or about achievements because the advertisement is in Tamil.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, it is in English also...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Now, I have called Shri Basudeb Acharia to make his submission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Sir, they were friends of NDA. How have they suddenly become the foes of NDA and are raising this issue...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please speak.